**Request to Continue Critical Research or Maintain Critical Research Supplies**

**at Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute**

To be granted an exemption to the University of British Columbia (UBC) and Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (VCHRI) decision to curtail all research activity at VCHRI, justifications for the exemption, with the pre-approval of the relevant Centre Director/ Department Head, must be provided to the Vice-President Research, VCH. This exemption covers all VCH research sites including VGH, UBC Hospital, Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health, GF Strong, Coastal, Richmond and Vancouver Community.

Please complete and submit this Exemption Request Form to [research@vch.ca](mailto:research@vch.ca). Decision and response will be sent to the principal investigator with copy to the Centre Director/ Department Head. Completion of this Exemption Request Form is not required for clinical trials and REB-approved clinical research that is covered by VCHRI guideline: <https://www.vchri.ca/covid-19-information-and-faqs>

The following criteria will be considered in the decision to grant the exemption:

* The nature of the project:
  + Does it involve COVID-19 research?
  + Does it involve maintaining critical research material\* that cannot otherwise be preserved (e.g. cells lines, tissue samples
  + Is this long-running research that is at a critical stage or close to an end-point.
* Is the exemption being requested to allow you to take simple steps to sustain a collection, such as topping up liquid nitrogen stocks or moving samples into a more sustainable storage container?
* Will the number of people required to do the work be able to respect social distancing protocols?

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| **Name of Research Facility** |  | |
| **Name of Principal Investigator** |  | |
| **Centre/ Department/ Faculty** |  | |
| **Building Location** |  | |
| **Email** |  | |
| **Primary Phone Number** |  | |
| **Project Title** |  | |
| **Personnel who will access the research facility** | Personnel #1: Mobile Phone Number:  Faculty member  Graduate student  Post-doctoral Fellow  Staff  Required access: hours/day\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ days/week\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Personnel #2: Mobile Phone Number:  Faculty member  Graduate student  Post-doctoral Fellow  Staff  Required access: hours/day\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ days/week\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Describe safety plan such as:   * keeping safe distances * hand washing procedure * other safety measure relevant to the research   If only one person will be accessing the facility, please describe the plan for ensuring that person’s safety and security: | |
| **Require access to** | In consideration of the risks to research personnel, on-going animal experimentation can only be considered under exceptional circumstances.  Laboratory  CL-2  CL-3  Approve ACC Protocol Number:  Animal Facilities  Jack Bell Research Centre  Jack Bell Research – Containment Unit  Jack Bell Research – Barrier  Jack Bell Research – Modified Organism Facility (MOF)   * **For JBRC clarification please contact**: Stephanie Smith ([stephanie.smith@vch.ca](mailto:stephanie.smith@vch.ca)) or Kate Orchard ([kate.orchard@cvh.ca](mailto:kate.orchard@cvh.ca) )   Animal Resource Unit (ARU)   * **For ARU clarification please contact**: Julian Kaye or Peter Cheng ([aru.info@ubc.ca](mailto:aru.info@ubc.ca) ) or 604-822-7597   ICORD/Blusson Spinal Cord Centre   * **FOR ICORD clarification please contact**: Lowell McPhail ([mcphail@icord.org](mailto:mcphail@icord.org) ) or Yuan Jiang ([yjiang@icord.org](mailto:yjiang@icord.org))   Alternate Housing (specify):  \*Note the Facility Manager has the right to refuse onsite entry to anyone without a completed Exemption form. | |
| **Compliance Certificates on File** | Human  Animal  Biosafety  Radiation Safety  Chemical Safety  None  Other (describe in detail): | |
| **Do you require any of the following supplies to conduct this research?** | Personal Protective Equipment  Gases  Liquid nitrogen | |
| **Will this research generate any waste that will require special handling to dispose of safely?**  Yes  No  If YES, please elaborate: | | |
| **How long do you require this exemption for?** | Weeks: (please include hours/day and/or per week  Continually required | |
| **The requested exemption relates to:**  Research directly related to COVID-19  Maintaining critical research material\*  Maintaining a breeding colony as an alternative to cryopreservation of precious strains that can’t be obtained commercially or from other sources at a future date  Topping up research storage (e.g. with liquid nitrogen)  Other  **Provide rationale:**  \*A critical research material is one that could not be replaced through others means. | | |
| **Approvals:** | | |
| Centre Director or Department Head | | Vice-President Research, VCH |
| **Decision:**  Approved  Declined | | |
| **Notes:** | | |

Exemption Request Form. Please send to [research@vch.ca](mailto:research@vch.ca).